

What is claimed is:

SUB ~~11~~ 12
5 1. A method for managing enterprise operations comprising the steps of:
logging on to a project manager server from a computer network;
defining one or more organizational entities within the enterprise;
defining one or more user groups associated with each of the organizational entities;
defining one or more users associated with each of the user groups; and
defining user roles associated with at least one of the users.

10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining one or more
external agencies for interfacing with the project management server.

15 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining one or more
suppliers for interfacing with the project management server.

SUB ~~13~~ 14
20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the user roles include permission and security
access rights for viewing and altering data stored by the project management server.

SUB ~~15~~ 16
25 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
remotely logging on to the project manager server from a terminal coupled with a
computer network; and
creating a project associated with one of the organizational entities.

SUB ~~16~~ 17
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the project is created using a project tree data
structure comprising one or more objects organized in a hierarchical fashion.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the objects include at least one of: budgets, tasks,
costs, timesheets, specs, requisitions, purchase orders, and to-do lists.

SUB A3/

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:
providing a user identifier to the project management server from a remote location;
receiving a customized home page in accordance with the user identifier, wherein the customized
5 home page includes one or more projects associated with the user in accordance with the user
roles; and
interfacing with the project by viewing objects within the project tree in accordance with
the user roles.

10 9. The method of claim 6, further comprises the steps of:
interfacing with said project by editing one or more objects within the project tree in
accordance with the user roles.

10. The method of claim 6, further comprises the steps of:
interfacing with the project by deleting one or more objects within the project tree in
accordance with the user roles.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:
interfacing with the project by adding one or more objects within said project tree in
20 accordance with the user roles.

12. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of completing a user defined
spec for specifying a product of service.

25 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of generating an RFQ from
the completed user-defined spec.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of sending one or more
RFQ's to suppliers that match the completed spec.

30 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of receiving one or more bids
from suppliers in response to the RFQs.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of awarding the job to one or more of said suppliers that sent in a bid.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of automatically generating purchase orders associated with awarded jobs.

18. The method of claim 8, wherein said method further comprises the steps of: interfacing with said project by adding one or more objects to said customized home page.

19. A centralized system for managing enterprise operations comprising: a project manager for creating projects for the enterprise; one or more internal departments of the enterprise coupled to said project manager; and one or more suppliers coupled to said project manager.

20. The system of claim 19, further comprising one or more external agencies coupled to said project manager.

21. The system of claim 19, further comprising a centralized spec server coupled to said project manager for generating user-defined specs.

22. The system of claim 19, wherein said projects include at least one of: organizational entities, work-groups, people, budgets, tasks, costs, timesheets, specs, requisitions, purchase orders and to-do lists.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein said completed specs are automatically matched with suitable suppliers .

24. The system of claim 23, wherein RFQs are automatically generated and sent to said suitable suppliers.

26. ~~The system of claim 25, wherein purchase orders are automatically generated for~~

5 said bids that are approved.

ADD A4
ADD D10

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be addressed. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.